



the Lantern

January 1, 2007

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White Gift Service Is A Colorful Success

The 2006 White Gift service featured beautiful music, meaningful words, and a few jokes about the "white" gifts wrapped in colored paper. This service also provided First Presbyterian members and friends with an opportunity to help others in need.

Ronnaug Bull and Elaine AuBuchon directed the program, with Travis Freeman as a featured narrator. First Presbyterian's children's choir performed several numbers, and other musical performances were offered by Margo Jones (flute), the Bell Choir, and a vocal trio: Elaine AuBuchon, Julie Jackson, and Jessica Sommer. Older youth participated by serving as characters in the Christmas story slide show.

Fran Norman, this year's White Gift coordinator, reports that the ministry part of the service was hugely successful. Altogether, members and friends of our church adopted 5 deserving families, who were "overwhelmed and so appreciative," according to Norman. In addition, monetary gifts totaling \$700.00 were forwarded to the Stubbins Family and Youth Center in Mo-

berly. The Kirksville Hands of Friendship Quilt Club donated food and \$150.00 in gift certificates for the families.

Many thanks to all who helped make this program a success, including:

- Jan Hartje for helping find the families and delivering the gifts to them;
- Jana Arabas and her family for fixing the tags and sorting the gifts after the service;
- Brenda Matheney for helping with the sorting;
- Danny Bull, for his all-around assistance;
- Mike McCormack and Greg Marshall for handling the technical side of things;
- Teri Haman and the Deacons for overseeing the refreshments;
- Janet Coggins, for the lovely organ music;
- Heather Martinez, a WalMart employee, who helped with the shopping;
- And thanks especially to Fran Norman, for donating so much time and effort to this project.

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First Presbyterian
Church, 201 S. High
Street, Kirksville, MO
63501

(660) 665-4473

newsletter@presbykv.org



Music highlighted the White Gift service, held on December 10. Left: Margo Jones. Right: Julie Jackson, Jessica Sommer, and Elaine AuBuchon sing *Mary Did You Know?*



Two Worship Services on Christmas Eve Sunday

This year, First Presbyterian was graced with two Christmas Eve services when Christmas Eve fell on Sunday.

The first service was held Sunday morning at 9:30. Described by Pastor Mike as a “low” service”, attendees were urged to wear their “favorite green sweater” and be comfortable. Musical performances highlighted the morning. Greg Jones, trumpet, played the prelude *Christmas Lullaby*; Kate Slavin, performed a vocal solo of *Breath of Heaven (Mary’s Song)*; Elaine AuBuchon, oboe; played *Gabriel’s Oboe* during the offering; and Jay Bulen and Greg Marshall played the trombone postlude, *Christmas Brass Duet*.

The second service, our traditional Candlelight Service, was held Sunday evening at 5:30pm. Again,

music played a starring role in the proceedings, with *O Holy Night* sung by Bob Keough accompanied by Janet Coggins, Greg Jones provided a trumpet solo during the offering, and *Ave Maria*, a flute solo, was performed by Margo Jones during Communion.

Below: The Bell Choir performs at the White Gift Service on December 10th.



Planning for Next Christmas

It may seem a little early, but Fran Norman, this year’s White Gift Service coordinator says, “be prepared!” It seems that it’s pretty difficult these days to find the “old fashioned” gift tags that are needed for our “white” gifts. We need gift tags that are not peel and stick. So, keep your eyes open for those gift tags and if you find some, pick them up and drop them off at the church office. Thanks in advance for your help!

Holiday Greeting



Dorothy Sees, long-time member of First Presbyterian, now living in Denver, CO, who donated money to purchase new cups and glasses for our church kitchen, sent holiday greetings to all her FPC friends in a card to Fran Norman. Dorothy said, “Thank you for sending the pictures of the cups and glasses and of the members attending the Presbyterian Women’s Meeting. And yes, I could name everyone. Glad you were able to purchase something that was needed. I do miss my church Family. Have a great Holiday...Love, Dorothy.”

The Lantern is a monthly publication of the First Presbyterian Church, 201 S. High St., Kirksville, MO.

Phone: 660-665-4473.

Letters to the Editor, articles, photos and comments are all welcome. All letters must be signed; the newsletter may refuse to print any letter. All rights are reserved. No portion of this newsletter may be reprinted without the Editor’s approval.

Submit articles by the 25th of the month to:

newsletter@presbykv.org

Mike's Page

New Year. New Opportunities. New successes and New Failures. 2007 holds a lot in store for us. It will probably take us all quite a time remembering to write "'07" on our correspondences, papers or checks. Usually you get writing 2006 down and then, oops, you have to write the new year. But maybe that's good--get that first failure of that year out of the way, make room for success.

As I think about this church, I am excited about what 2007 holds in store for us. God has blessed us all with each other--that is a huge blessing. I am getting to know about you, your story: those things which make you most glad and joyful and the things that you are sad about, your regrets or even failures. And you are getting to know me a little better. Hopefully you are figuring me out a little and the kind of pastor I will be for you. In our relationship, 2007 will be important.

2007 also will be important because we will see some change. God willing, our church will grow in 2007. Maybe, we'll get some new members. Maybe, we'll each grow in our faith. Maybe, the McCormacks will

have another child (just kidding! *gulp*). But there will be growth in 2007. I feel as if I've already grown in my Christian Life through this church. I think that our church will grow--in fact, we have no choice. We will grow. It's a fact. Children can't NOT grow. It's the same with us. We will grow and mature and increase, "in stature and favor with the Lord and with people" (1 Samuel 2:26; Luke 2:52). This will be a great challenge and a great difficulty because it involves change. Because we all want to grow but we want things to stay as they are. That's tricky. That's like going to London and wondering why it isn't more like the United States (though they do have McDonald's).

In 2007, we will grow. We will grow together in our knowledge of each other and God. We will grow in our faith. And I think we will grow in every kind of way you can grow. But that will involve changes. Hopefully we can navigate these changes with God's help and God's grace.

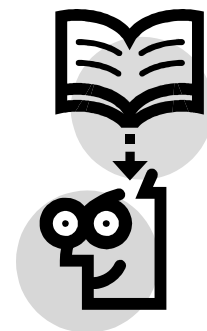
Happy New Year,

Mike

Thanks!

On behalf of myself and my family, I wanted to say thank you for the Christmas gift. It was very generous and unexpected. We appreciate you all so much, your affection and care toward us. Elizabeth and I are enjoying Kirksville and I know that is because of you. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Michael, Elizabeth and Noah McCormack



*"...We will grow
and mature and
increase, 'in stature
and favor with the
Lord and with
people'...."*

Mike's Office Hours

MONDAY: 8:30am-Noon; 1pm-5pm

TUESDAY:
8:30am-Noon

WEDNESDAY:
8:30am-Noon

THURSDAY:
8:30am-Noon;
1pm-5pm

FRIDAY & SATURDAY: No office hours



Notes from The Session

The Session and Board of Deacons of First Presbyterian Church met on December 12, 2006. Pastor Mike called the joint portion of the meeting to order at 7pm.

Mike gave his Pastor's Report, noting that he has been asked to teach "Introduction to the Bible" at MACC in Kirksville during the spring semester. Mike noted that he feels that there will be good opportunities for evangelism and outreach in teaching this class.

Mike distributed a list of Special Worship Services for 2007. This list includes services for Ash Wednesday (2/21), Maundy Thursday (4/5), Easter Sunrise (4/8), Day

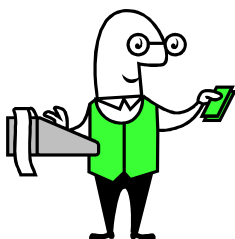
of Pentecost (5/27), All Saint's Day (11/1), and Christmas Eve (12/24).

The Session also set the date of the **annual congregational meeting** for January 21, 2007, immediately following the 9:30am worship service.

Help Wanted: The Hospitality Committee of the Board of Deacons seeks friendly people to help with greeting and ushering in 2007. Contact Teri Haman or Janis Keough to volunteer, or sign up on the sheet in the South stairwell leading to the Narthex. Many thanks in advance!

Financial Report, 30 November 2006

	Month Income	Month Expense	YTD Income	YTD Expense
Giving & Other Revenue	\$11,233		\$130,854	
Restricted Program Transfers	1,134		27,203	
Designated Income/Expense	869	\$822	9,635	\$9,452
Pastor Search Committee			60	3,373
Direct Mission		1,000		11,100
Pastoral Leadership		4,445		17,003
Worship & Music		896	255	19,274
Christian Education	308	351	1,399	5,719
Administrative Support		4,922	240	56,105
House & Grounds	100	2,090	9,436	32,499
General Needs	10	424	485	2,692
Campus Ministry	1,040	118	3,295	934
Membership Shepherding		100		647
Community Ministries	144	1,357	1,388	6,025
Rollins Ministry	2,475	1,277	30,112	22,670
Westminster House Ministry	<u>0000</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>0000</u>	<u>3,187</u>
Total	<u>\$17,313</u>	<u>\$17,938</u>	<u>\$214,362</u>	<u>\$190,680</u>
Undesignated Cash Checking Account: \$7,187.26				



Operation J.O.Y. and Mid-Hi Youth Party in December

The students in FPC's after-school programs, Operation J.O.Y. and Mid-High Presbyterian Youth Fellowship enjoyed a joint Christmas Party on December 13.

After refreshments of cupcakes and apple juice, the students went outside to play. Upon returning to the church, the PYF members and leaders helped the children make Christmas tree ornaments using paint

and clear balls. Games were enjoyed, and Ms. Elaine read a Christmas story and led the group in singing carols. Ms. Ronnaug closed with a prayer. It was a good "last day" before Christmas vacation.

Operation J.O.Y. and the Mid-Hi PYF activities will resume on January 10 at 3:15pm.



News Briefs – What's Happening?

Bean Bagging—You may have seen those large bags of bean and rice in the kitchen. Did you wonder what they were for? Well, thanks to the Hamans, who picked the food up at Sam's Club, and to Jan Hartje, Laura Easley, Martha Rowe, Lin Twining, Murilyn Koutstaal, Paula Presley, Bob & Barbie Sanders, and Janis Keough who bagged it for distribution, and again to Bob & Barbie Sanders for delivering it to the Food Depot, local families in need this winter have rice and beans to eat.

Presbyterian Campus Fellowship— PCF currently is on winter break, but they ended the fall semester in a big way. On 12/3, the group met for breakfast at First Pres. and learned relaxation techniques from Jennifer Hurst, in preparation for finals week. After the White Gift service on 12/10, PCF met at Westminster House. Goodie bags from the congregation were distributed, and some students chose to stay awhile and take ad-

vantage of the quiet to study. Another "study hall" was held on Monday evening, 12/11. PCF will begin regular meetings once again with the traditional Supper on Sunday on Jan. 14. Many thanks to all those who donated cookies, toys, and other items for the student's goodie bags, and special thanks to Jay Bulen's Sunday School class for decorating the bags!

Joy Offering—The Joy Offering collected this holiday season totaled \$459.00.

Here's an Idea: Parking Ministry—Visitors may be turned off if they can't park close to the church. And, a little walk on a Sunday morning can be quite refreshing...so, If you're not disabled, consider parking on the street a little further away from the church than you usually do. Voila! A parking ministry!



To the Congregation

Jesus said, "This is my commandment that you love one another...you are my friends, if you do what I command you." John 15:12a, 14.

Truly, you have kept the Lord's command to love as demonstrated by the love you give us all year long. For us to receive the lovely gift of money, makes us feel not only loved, but humbled. Be assured of our love for you. We are looking forward to serving the Lord with you at First Presbyterian in 2007. May God keep you in His care,

Danny and Ronnaug



Lectionary Readings

• **Jan. 6 (Epiphany of the Lord)**

Isaiah 60:1-6
 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
 Ephesians 3:1-12
 Matthew 2:1-12

• **Jan. 7 (Baptism of the Lord)**

Isaiah 43:1-7
 Psalm 29
 Acts 8:14-17
 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

• **Jan. 14 (2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

Isaiah 62:1-5
 Psalm 36:5-10
 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
 John 2:1-11

• **Jan. 21 (3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
 Psalm 19
 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
 Luke 4:14-21

• **Jan. 28 (Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

Jeremiah 1:4-10
 Psalm 71:1-6
 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
 Luke 4:21-30

January Events

Week of Dec. 31-Jan. 6

Sunday, 12/31

- Worship, 9:30am; Fellowship/Coffee-time, 10:30am, Fellowship Hall; Sunday School, 11am

Monday, 1/1

- Holiday, **Office Closed; No Sr. High PYF meeting**

Wednesday, 1/3—No Operation J.O.Y. or Mid-High PYF this week

- Mid-Week Bible Study, 1pm, at a member's home (call the office for more information)
- Adult Choir Rehearsal, 7pm, Choir Room

Thursday, 1/4

- Budget & Finance Committee meeting, 1:30pm, Primary Room

Week of January 7-13

Sunday, 1/7

- Worship, 9:30am; Coffee Time/Fellowship, 10:30am, Fellowship Hall; Sunday School, 11am

Monday, 1/8

- Sr. High PYF, 7pm, Travers Room

Tuesday, 1/9

- Session and Deacons Meetings, 7pm, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, 1/10

- Mid-Week Bible Study, 1pm, at a member's home (call the office for more information)
- Operation JOY/Mid-High PYF resumes, 3:15pm
- Adult Choir rehearsal, 7pm, Choir room

Thursday, 1/11

- Campus Ministry Committee Meeting, Junior Room, 7pm

Friday, 1/12

- Parents' Night Out, 6 or 6:15pm, Meet at The Wooden Nickel restaurant

Saturday, 1/13

- Presby Seniors, 9am, Ponderosa Restaurant

Week of January 14-20

Sunday, 1/14

- Worship, 9:30am; **Second Sunday Brunch**, 10:30am, Fellowship Hall; Sunday School, 11am; Presbyterian Campus Fellowship, 5:30pm, Westminster House
- Adult Bell Choir rehearsal, 4:30pm, Dorcas Room

Monday, 1/15

- Sr. High PYF, 7pm, Travers Room

January Events, Continued

Wednesday, 1/17

- Mid-Week Bible Study, 1pm, at a member's home (call the office for more information)
- Operation JOY/Mid-High PYF, 3:15pm
- Adult Choir rehearsal, 7pm, Choir room

Week of January 21-27

Sunday, 1/21

- Worship, 9:30am; **Congregational Meeting following worship**; Fellowship/Coffee-time, 10:30am, Fellowship Hall; Sunday School, 11am; Presbyterian Campus Fellowship, 5:30pm, Westminster House

Monday, 1/22

- Sr. High PYF, 7pm, Travers Room

Tuesday, 1/23

- Christian Education Committee Meeting, 7pm

Wednesday, 1/24

- Mid-Week Bible Study, 1pm, at a member's home (call the office for more information)
- Operation JOY/Mid-High PYF, 3:15pm
- Adult Choir rehearsal, 7pm, Choir room

Jan. 28-Feb. 3

Sunday, 1/28

- Worship, 9:30am; Fellowship/Coffee-time, 10:30am, Fellowship Hall; Sunday School, 11am; Presbyterian Campus Fellowship, 5:30pm, Westminster House

Monday, 1/29

- Sr. High PYF, 7pm, Travers Room

Wednesday, 1/31

- Mid-Week Bible Study, 1pm, at a member's home (call the office for more information)
- Operation JOY/Mid-High PYF, 3:15pm
- Adult Choir rehearsal, 7pm, Choir room

January Birthdays — Congratulations!

BIRTHDAYS:

Jan. 1—Charles Adams

Jan. 4—Hannah Huston

Jan. 10—Geoff DeWitt

Jan. 15—Delmar Van Galen

Jan. 16—Shelby Hunter

Jan. 20—Cheryl Cleeton, Melanie Collier

Jan. 25—Zak DeWitt

Jan. 29—Juanita Jacobs, John Steinmann



**Food of the
Month:**

Peanut Butter



Emergency Relief Ministries Seeks Volunteer Caseworker

The regular meeting of the Emergency Relief Ministries was held on Tuesday, 12/12. Although funding is always an issue with ERM, the main topic of discussion in December was the need for a new caseworker. If a new caseworker cannot be found, calls for aid will probably come directly to the individual churches in our community.

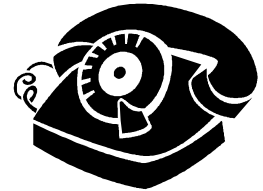
Anne Barlow, the current caseworker, has served in that position for many years. She has been the Executive Director of the Red Cross in Kirksville for 11 years, but she is retiring from that position at the end of 2006. Anne has offered to stay and serve ERM through January, 2007, and to train her replacement.

This volunteer position involves being available to answer phones from 9am-11am Monday through

Friday and keeping track of who has called and what help they have received. If you feel called to help ERM, please contact Janis Keough, First Presbyterian Church's representative to ERM.

The treasurer's report presented at the December meeting—figures current at the end of November—showed total income of \$3,268.60 and disbursements of \$2,142.73. This income figure was a recent high and reflected extra donations from churches that ERM solicited when funds dropped dangerously low.

The next meeting of ERM will be held on Tuesday, February 13, 2007, at the Christian Church.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
201 S. HIGH STREET
KIRKSVILLE, MO 63501
(660) 665-4473

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